



# You may be **RICHER** than you think!

What you  
need to  
know  
about  
unclaimed

Does your memory sometimes play tricks on you? Have you ever forgotten where you put that gift certificate you got for your birthday or the insurance check that came in the mail last month? Did you forget to pick up your utility deposit or close out a bank account when you moved? If so, you're not unique.

Every year the Department of Revenue receives millions of dollars of unclaimed property that people have forgotten. The property comes from many sources, but the most common are bank accounts, utility deposits, gift and stock certificates, uncashed checks, insurance proceeds and contents of abandoned safe deposit boxes.

## **YOU MAY BE RICHER THAN YOU THINK!!**

You may be richer than you think!! Odds are that one in seven Washington residents or businesses have unclaimed property with a cash value waiting to be claimed at the State of Washington's Unclaimed Property section.

The property might be old bank accounts, payroll checks, or gift certificates. It could also be insurance proceeds or utility deposits. It might even be stocks, bonds, or other securities. Unclaimed property does not include tangible property such as real estate, boats, or vehicles. Currently, our state is holding over \$200 million for over 800,000 owners.

## **WHAT IS REVENUE'S ROLE?**

Each year, business organizations across the United States report unclaimed property due Washington residents to the state of Washington.

The Unclaimed Property law protects the funds indefinitely so it may be returned to the rightful owners or their heirs. The Department of Revenue acts as the custodian for the property and administers the state's

Unclaimed Property program as an ongoing public service for Washington citizens and businesses.

Every state has an Unclaimed Property Program. If you have lived in other states, you may want to contact those states directly. The list of each state's Unclaimed Property Program address and phone number can be obtained by calling our office or visiting our web site <http://dor.wa.gov>. Most states provide unclaimed property owner searches on the Internet.

## HOW DOES REVENUE FIND OWNERS?

The Department's program includes a continuous effort to locate the owners of unclaimed property received each year. Advertisements are placed in major newspapers across the state listing the names and addresses of owners. News releases are sent to TV and radio stations periodically. In addition, our owner listing may be searched on the Internet. The Department periodically sets up displays throughout the state.

Other attempts to locate owners include the use of directories, telephone books, death records, the Internet and employee information reported to the state.

## HOW DO I GET A CLAIM FORM?

If you think the state is holding unclaimed property belonging to you, send a written inquiry to the Department of Revenue, Unclaimed Property Section, PO Box 448, Olympia, WA 98507-0448. You may also print a claim form from our owner listing on the Internet. Or you may call our office at 1-800-435-2429 (in WA) or (360) 586-2736 and speak to an unclaimed property representative Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

There is no time limit for claiming funds held by the State of Washington. The rightful owners or their heirs can still claim property reported in 1955 and thereafter.

When you file a claim you will need to send proper documentation to establish your right to claim the funds. This documentation varies depending on the type of property. The unclaimed property claim form will explain what you will need to provide as proof of ownership.

Please allow up to 4 weeks to receive your refund. Claims involving securities may take up to two months for processing.

Department of Revenue  
Unclaimed Property  
PO Box 448  
Olympia, Washington 98507-0448

To reach the Unclaimed Property Section by telephone, please call:

In Washington State  
(800) 435-2429

Outside of Washington State  
(360) 586-2736

Fax Number — (360) 586-2163

E-mail Address — [ucp@dor.wa.gov](mailto:ucp@dor.wa.gov)

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